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THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

A MARVEL COMICS EVENT

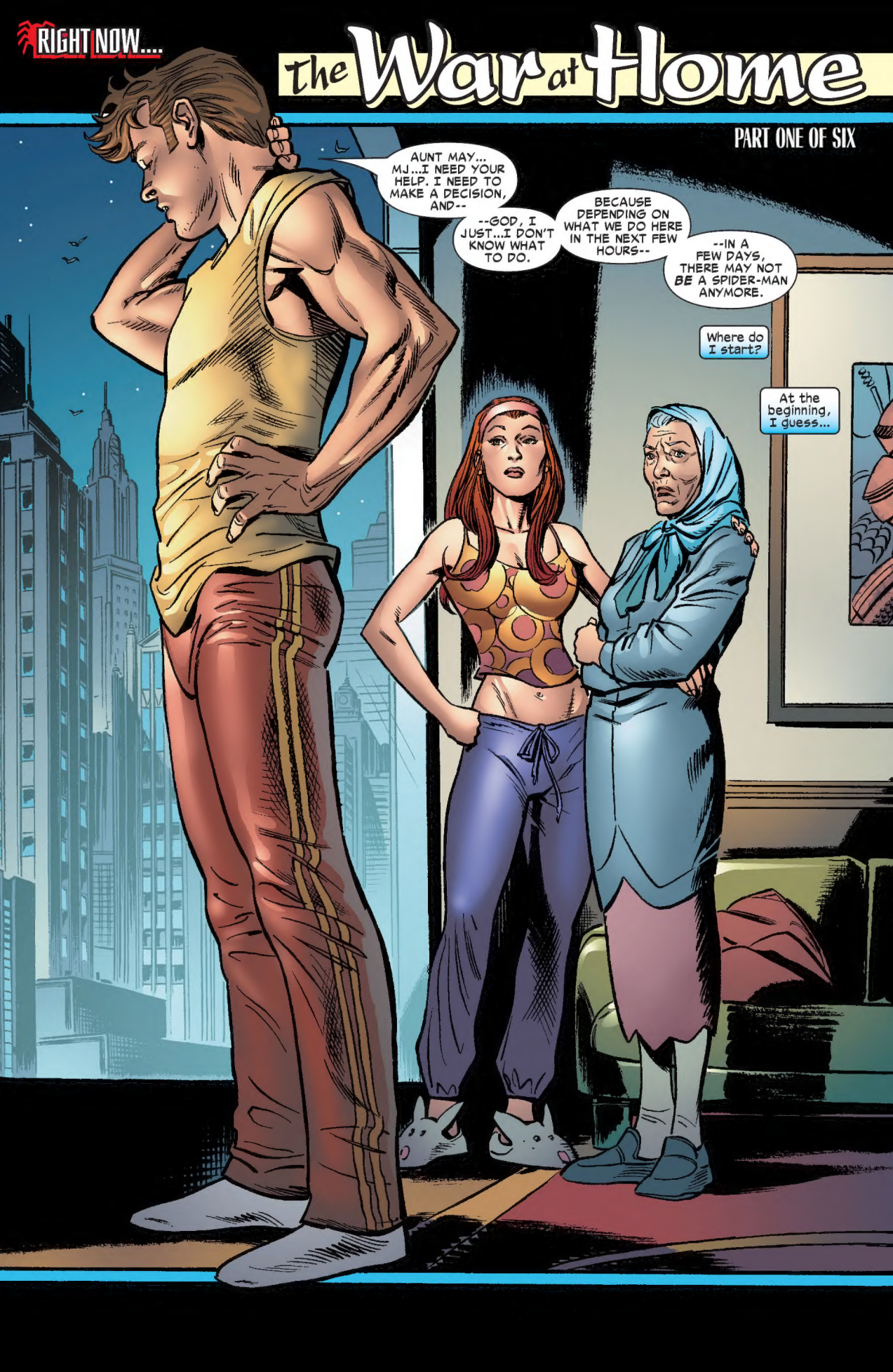
CIVIL WAR™

STRACZYNSKI

GARNEY

The War at Home

PART ONE OF SIX



AUNT MAY...
MJ...I NEED YOUR
HELP. I NEED TO
MAKE A DECISION,
AND--

--GOD, I
JUST...I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
TO DO.

BECAUSE
DEPENDING ON
WHAT WE DO HERE
IN THE NEXT FEW
HOURS--

--IN A
FEW DAYS,
THERE MAY NOT
BE A SPIDER-MAN
ANYMORE.

Where do
I start?

At the
beginning,
I guess...

"HOW BAD IS IT, BOSS?"

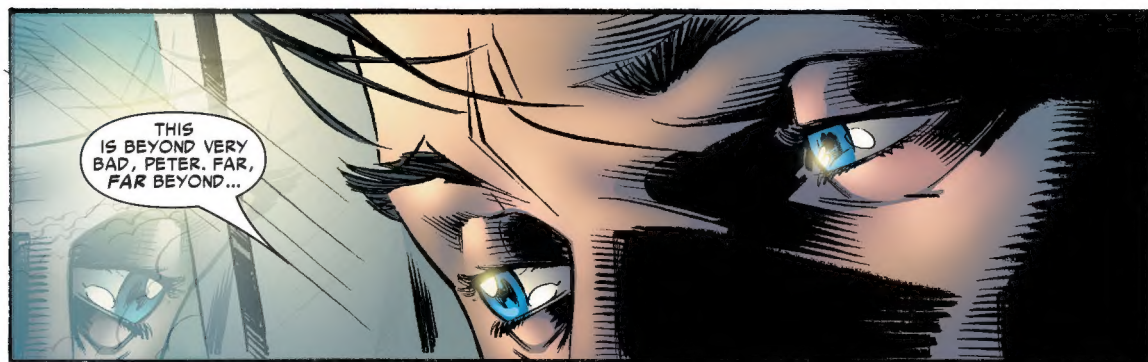
I DON'T KNOW, PETER. THE LOCAL FIRST RESPONDERS IN STAMFORD ARE STILL SORTING THROUGH THE DEBRIS LOOKING FOR SURVIVORS.

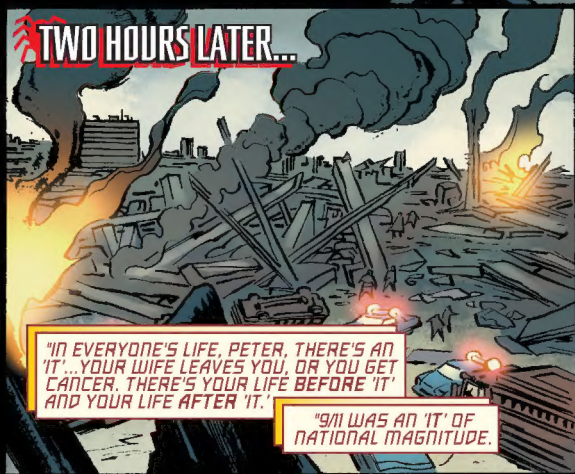
DEPENDING ON HOW MANY WERE KILLED, THIS IS BAD...OR IT'S VERY BAD.

DO WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?

"IT LOOKS LIKE THERE WAS A FIGHT BETWEEN TWO GROUPS OF POWERS. WE'RE STILL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHO WAS FIGHTING, AND ABOUT WHAT.

"THINGS GOT...OUT OF CONTROL."

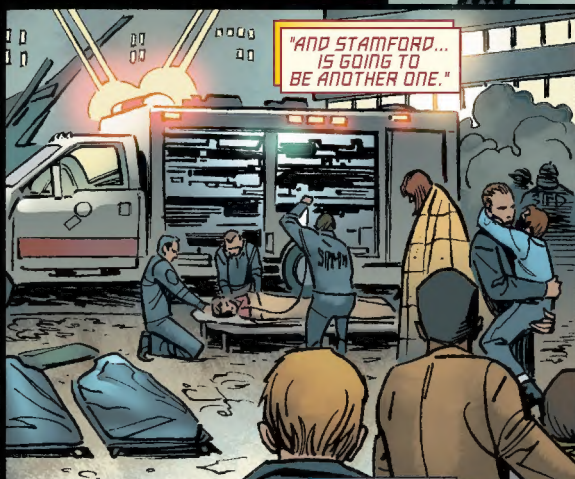




TWO HOURS LATER...

"IN EVERYONE'S LIFE, PETER, THERE'S AN 'IT'... YOUR WIFE LEAVES YOU, OR YOU GET CANCER. THERE'S YOUR LIFE BEFORE 'IT' AND YOUR LIFE AFTER 'IT'."

"9/11 WAS AN 'IT' OF NATIONAL MAGNITUDE."



"AND STAMFORD... IS GOING TO BE ANOTHER ONE."

"LOOK AT THEM, TONY--"



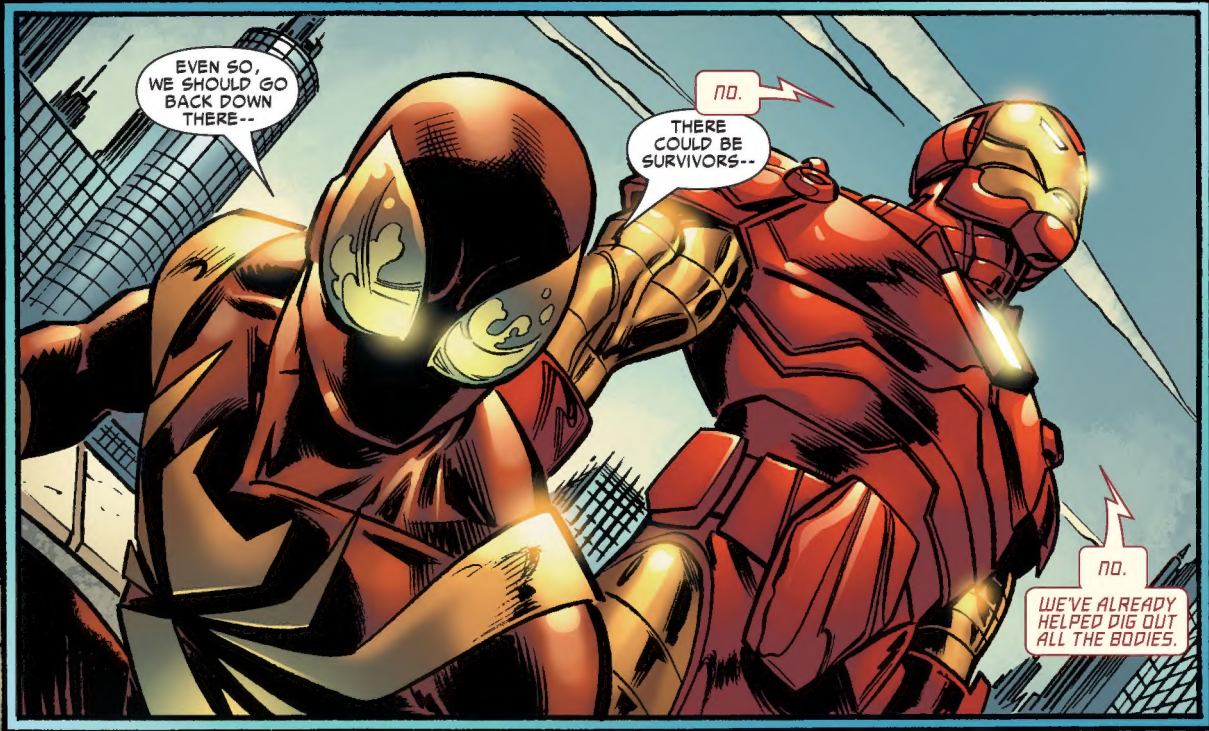
--THE WAY THEY'RE LOOKING AT US, THE RAGE IN THEIR EYES, IT'S AS IF THEY THINK WE'RE RESPONSIBLE.

AND WHY NOT? NO, WE'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE. BUT WE'RE IN THE SAME FRATERNITY OF POWERS.

WE'RE THE SECOND COUSINS OF THE GUYS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF THEIR LOVED ONES.



THEY HATE US.
I DON'T BLAME THEM.



EVEN SO,
WE SHOULD GO
BACK DOWN
THERE--

NO.
THERE
COULD BE
SURVIVORS--

NO.
WE'VE ALREADY
HELPED DIG OUT
ALL THE BODIES.



THEN
WHAT ARE WE
STILL DOING HERE IF
WE'RE NOT DOING
ANYTHING?

WE'RE HERE FOR
THE SAME REASON
HE'S HERE.



WHO?

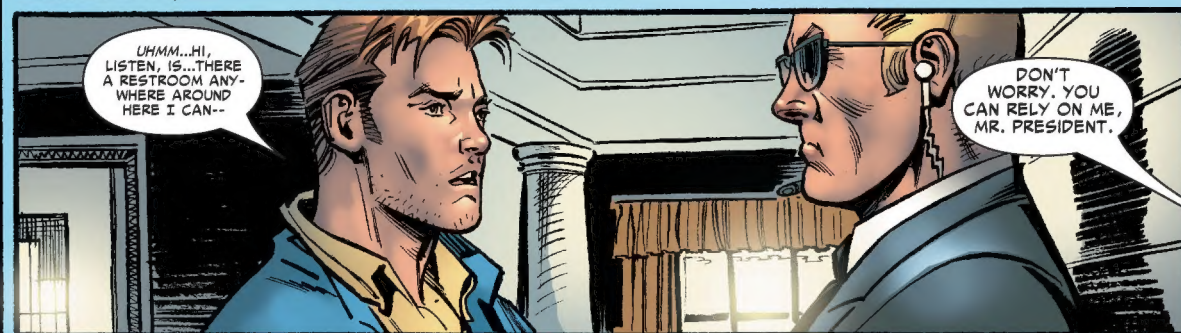
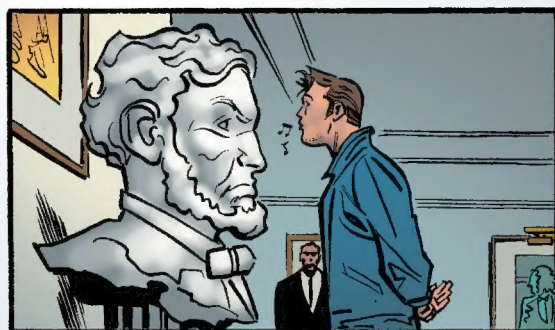
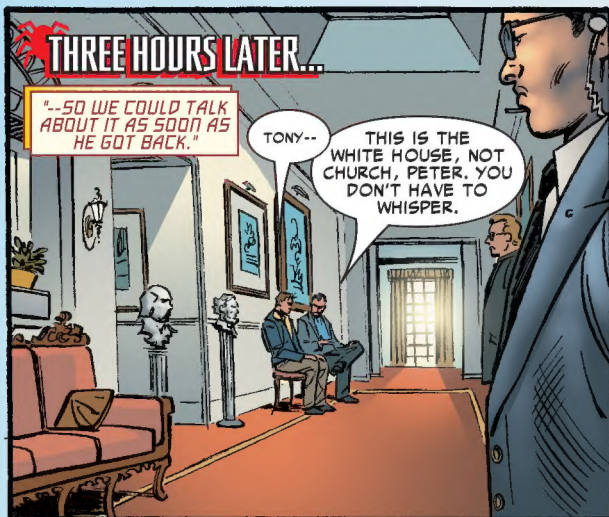
TRACK THE HELICOPTER WITH
JUST YOUR EYES AND LET THE
CYBERNETIC SYSTEM ZOOM
IN FOR YOU.



I'M
NOT SEEING
ANY--
OH.



HIS OFFICE CALLED FROM THE
WHITE HOUSE AS HE WAS LEAVING.
THEY WANTED ME TO BE HERE.
THEY WANTED ME TO SEE WHAT
HE SAW, AS HE WAS SEEING IT--





WHAT HAPPENED?

TONY?
WAIT UP--



WHAT DID HE SAY?

TWO THINGS.

FIRST, AS A FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE, AND ONE OF THE MOST VISIBLE FIGURES IN OUR LITTLE FRATERNITY, HE WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT CONGRESS WILL MEET LATER TODAY TO PUSH THROUGH THE SUPER-HUMAN REGISTRATION ACT.

IT'LL BE SIGNED WITHIN A WEEK OR SO.



YOU DON'T NEED A RICHTER SCALE TO KNOW THERE'S BEEN A TECTONIC SHIFT IN THE WAY THE COUNTRY SEES US, PETER. YOU CAN FEEL IT. THE WHOLE COUNTRY JUST SHUDDERED.

THEY WANT THE POWERS IDENTIFIED, RESPONSIBLE AND CONTROLLED. STARTING IMMEDIATELY.



BUT...YOU'RE GONNA FIGHT THIS, RIGHT?


WE...I MEAN, ALL THOSE GUYS WHO HAVE OTHER NAMES, REAL NAMES THEY'VE WORKED SO HARD TO PROTECT...THEY'RE NOT GOING TO JUST ROLL OVER AFTER ALL THAT.



I MEAN... LOOK AT YOUR CASE. IT TOOK YOU YEARS TO CONVINCE EVERYONE YOU WEREN'T IRON MAN ANYMORE.

I KNOW. WHICH BRINGS ME TO THE SECOND POINT.






"EVERYBODY--EVERYBODY--IN A MASK IS GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE IT OFF, REVEAL HIMSELF, AND REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT."

"GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS?"

"YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, PETER--"



"--RIGHT NOW, IN THE EYES OF THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT, FOR AS LONG AS WE REMAIN ANONYMOUS--"

"--WE'RE ALL BAD GUYS."

"THOSE WHO REFUSE TO COMPLY WILL BE HUNTED DOWN AND ARRESTED... ALONG WITH ANYONE WHO AIDED OR ABETTED THEM IN KEEPING THEIR IDENTITIES SECRET."



"THEIR ASSETS WILL BE FROZEN, THEIR HOMES SEIZED."

"AND FINALLY, THEY WILL BE JAILED. IMPRISONED."

"SOME, POTENTIALLY, FOR A VERY, VERY LONG TIME."



THIS IS GOING TO SPLIT THE POWERED COMMUNITY RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE, PETER. AND I HAVE TO KNOW WHERE YOU STAND.

I STAND WITH YOU, TONY. I TOLD YOU THAT. I MADE A PROMISE. I DON'T DO THAT SORT OF THING LIGHTLY.

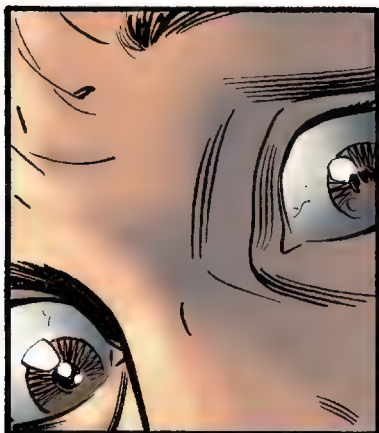
I KNOW.



PETER, I HAVE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN MAKING THE OTHER POWERS REGISTER. IF I DON'T, SOMEONE ELSE WORSE WILL. AND FRANKLY... I THINK IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO AT THIS POINT.

I WANT YOU AT MY SIDE, PETER. BUT I NEED YOU AS BOTH PETER...AND SPIDER-MAN.

OPENLY.



BOSS...?

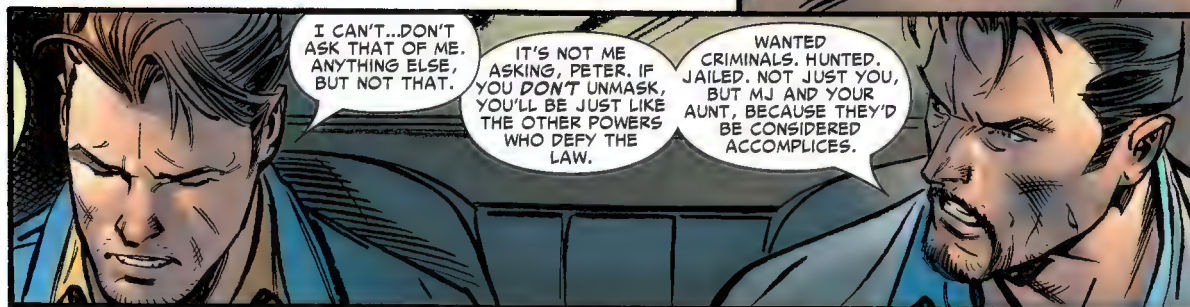
TONY...?

WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?



I'M SAYING THAT, BECAUSE OF MY POSITION, I HAVE TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS ON THE UP-AND-UP. THAT MEANS THAT THE ONLY WAY THAT PETER PARKER CAN WORK WITH ME--

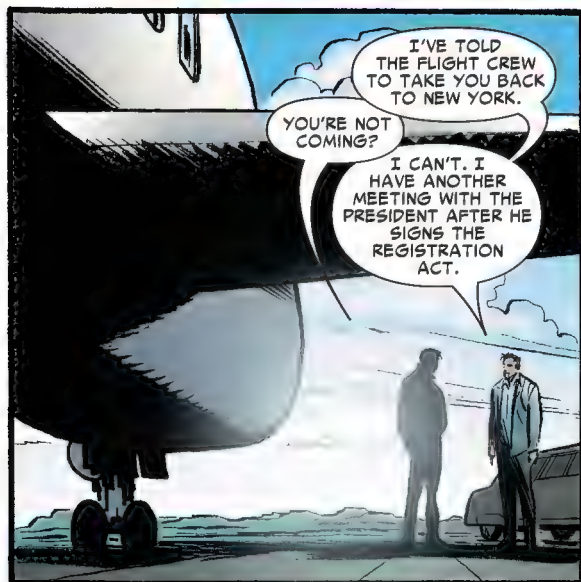
--IS IF SPIDER-MAN UNMASKS.

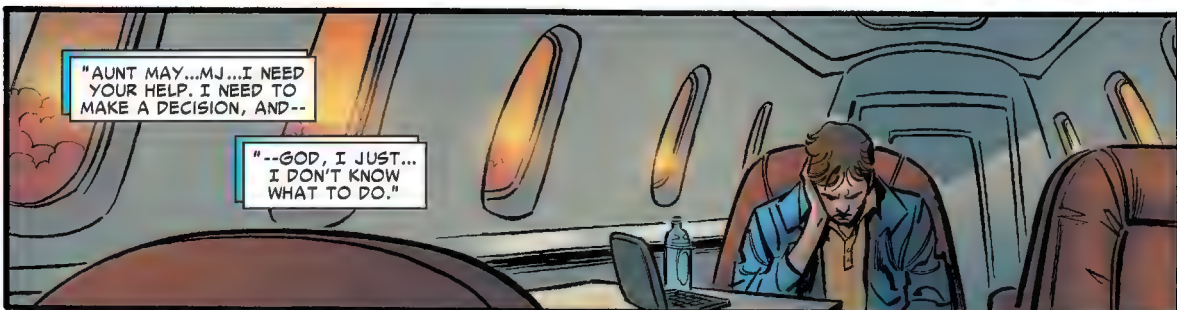
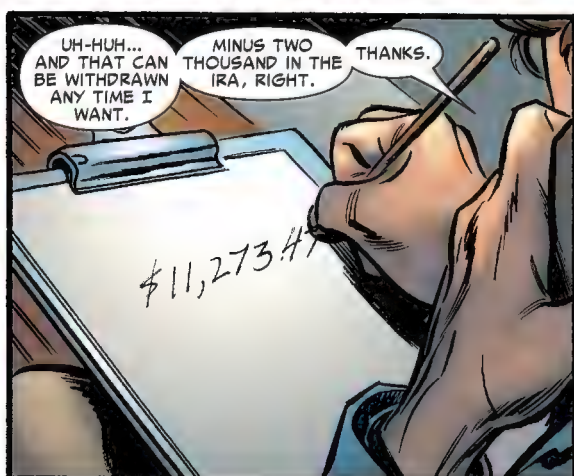
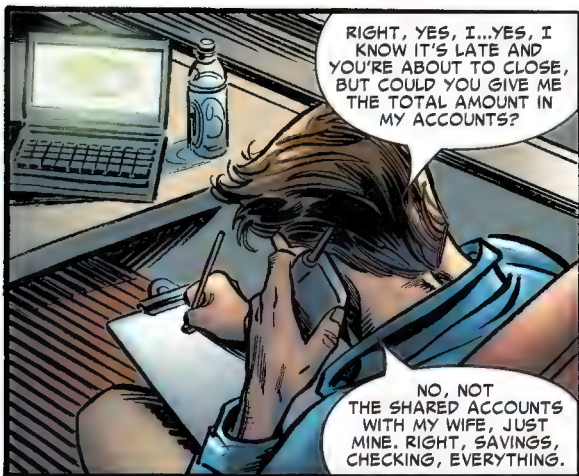
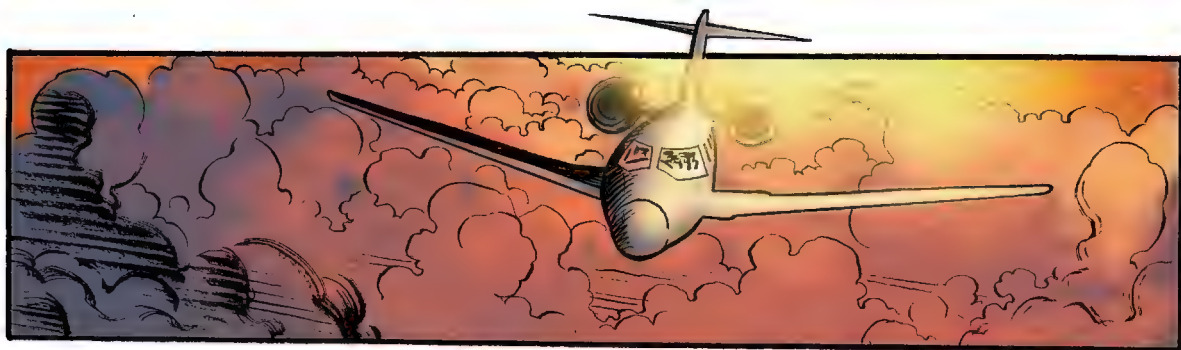


I CAN'T...DON'T ASK THAT OF ME. ANYTHING ELSE, BUT NOT THAT.

IT'S NOT ME ASKING, PETER. IF YOU DON'T UNMASK, YOU'LL BE JUST LIKE THE OTHER POWERS WHO DEFY THE LAW.

WANTED CRIMINALS. HUNTED. JAILED. NOT JUST YOU, BUT MJ AND YOUR AUNT, BECAUSE THEY'D BE CONSIDERED ACCOMPLICES.





RIGHT NOW...

BECAUSE, DEPENDING ON WHAT WE DO HERE IN THE NEXT FEW HOURS--

--IN A FEW DAYS, THERE MAY NOT BE A SPIDER-MAN ANYMORE.

THE MOMENT I PUT ON THAT MASK AND WALK OUT THE DOOR...I BECOME A CRIMINAL.

YOU'RE NOT A CRIMINAL, PETER. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT IF THEY MOVED THE GOALPOSTS. IN YOUR HEART--

MY HEART ISN'T THE ISSUE, MJ. IT'S THE LAW, AND THE LAW HAS A TENDENCY NOT TO PAY ATTENTION TO THE HEART.

OKAY, THEN LET'S LOOK AT OUR OPTIONS. IF YOU GO ALONG WITH THIS...IF YOU GO PUBLIC...DOES THAT REALLY SOLVE THE PROBLEM?

IS TONY GOING TO EXPECT YOU TO HELP HUNT DOWN WHOEVER DOESN'T COME OUT OF THE CLOSET?

PROBABLY.

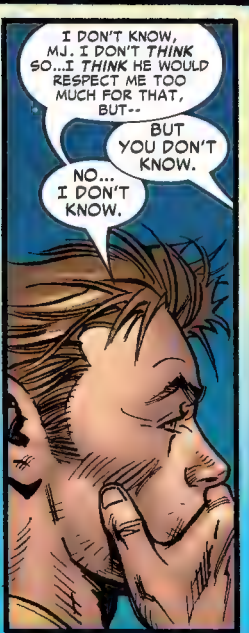
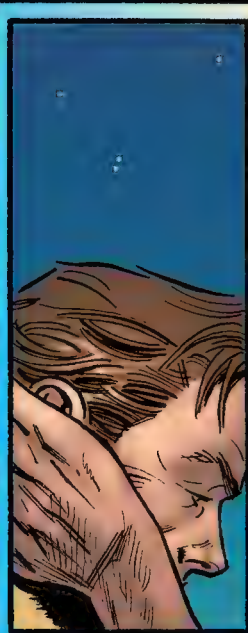
ARE THEY GOING TO EXPECT YOU TO NAME NAMES?

YOU MEAN, LIKE BACK IN THE 50s? "ARE YOU NOW OR HAVE YOU EVER BEEN...?"

I DON'T KNOW. MAYBE. EXCEPT I DON'T KNOW ANYBODY THAT TONY DOESN'T KNOW.

IF YOU DON'T GO PUBLIC... WILL HE TURN YOU IN? IF HE'S ASKED...WILL HE NAME YOUR NAME?

WHICH RAISES ANOTHER QUESTION.



I DON'T KNOW, M.J. I DON'T THINK SO...I THINK HE WOULD RESPECT ME TOO MUCH FOR THAT, BUT--

BUT YOU DON'T KNOW.

NO... I DON'T KNOW.



GOD, I HATE THIS...I FEEL LIKE THE WALLS ARE PRESSING IN ALL AROUND ME. ALL MY LIFE, I'VE BEEN SO CAREFUL TO HIDE THIS. JUST THE IDEA OF TAKING OFF THE MASK IN PUBLIC--

--MAKES ME FEEL LIKE SOMEONE JUST PUNCHED ME IN THE GUT.

I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET, PETER, BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DECIDE.

IT'S NOT JUST MY DECISION, M.J...WE ALL HAVE TO AGREE, BECAUSE THIS AFFECTS YOU TOO. BOTH OF YOU.

IF I DON'T COME OUT, I'LL HAVE TO GO ON THE RUN.

WE'LL GO WITH YOU.

NO...YOU CAN'T. THE MOMENT YOU DO, THEY CAN ARREST YOU AS WELL FOR AIDING AND ABETTING.

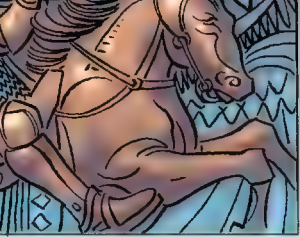
IF I GO, I GO ALONE...NO HELP, NO CONTACT, NO MONEY OTHER THAN MY OWN--

CAN I--

--CAN I SAY SOMETHING?

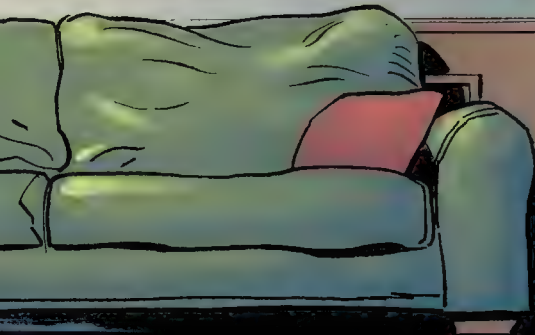
OF COURSE, AUNT MAY. I MEAN, I THINK WE KNOW WHERE YOU STAND, BUT--

NO, I RATHER SUSPECT YOU DON'T, PETER.

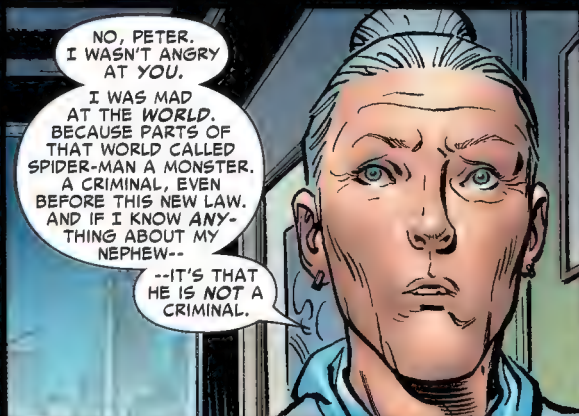


WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU WERE SPIDER-MAN, ONCE I GOT OVER THE SHOCK, DO YOU KNOW WHAT MY FIRST EMOTION WAS?

ANGER.



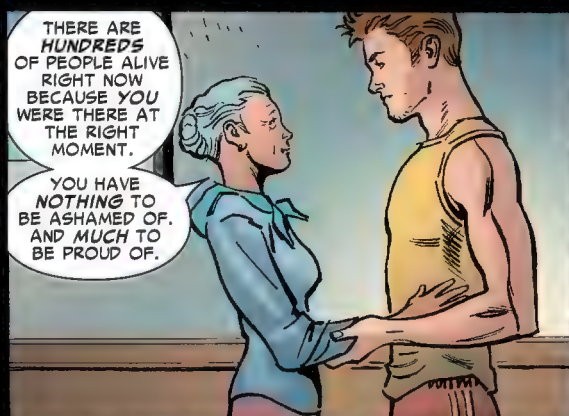
I KNOW...YOU WERE DISAPPOINTED AT ME FOR LYING TO YOU ALL THOSE YEARS, AND--



NO, PETER. I WASN'T ANGRY AT YOU.

I WAS MAD AT THE WORLD. BECAUSE PARTS OF THAT WORLD CALLED SPIDER-MAN A MONSTER. A CRIMINAL, EVEN BEFORE THIS NEW LAW. AND IF I KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY NEPHEW--

--IT'S THAT HE IS NOT A CRIMINAL.

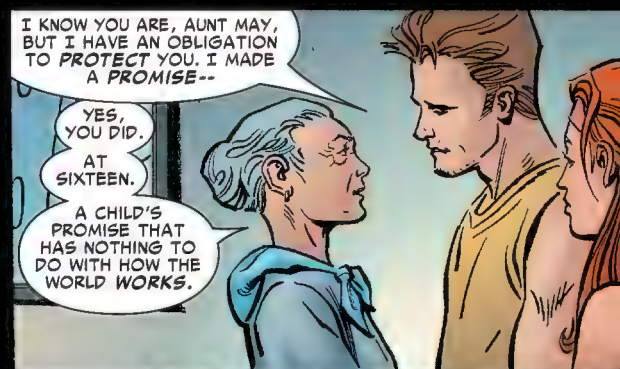


THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ALIVE RIGHT NOW BECAUSE YOU WERE THERE AT THE RIGHT MOMENT.

YOU HAVE NOTHING TO BE ASHAMED OF. AND MUCH TO BE PROUD OF.



I'M PROUD OF YOU, PETER. AND NOW, MAYBE, IT'S TIME FOR THE WHOLE WORLD TO BE PROUD OF YOU. TO KNOW YOU, AS I KNOW YOU.

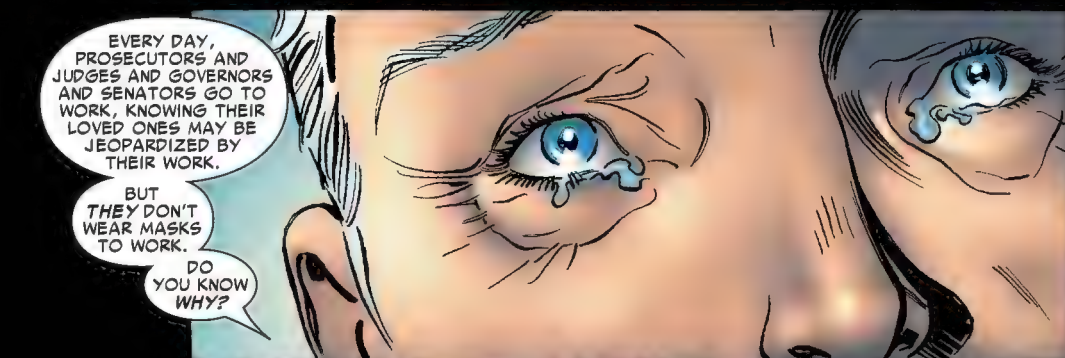


I KNOW YOU ARE, AUNT MAY, BUT I HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO PROTECT YOU. I MADE A PROMISE--

YES, YOU DID.

AT SIXTEEN.

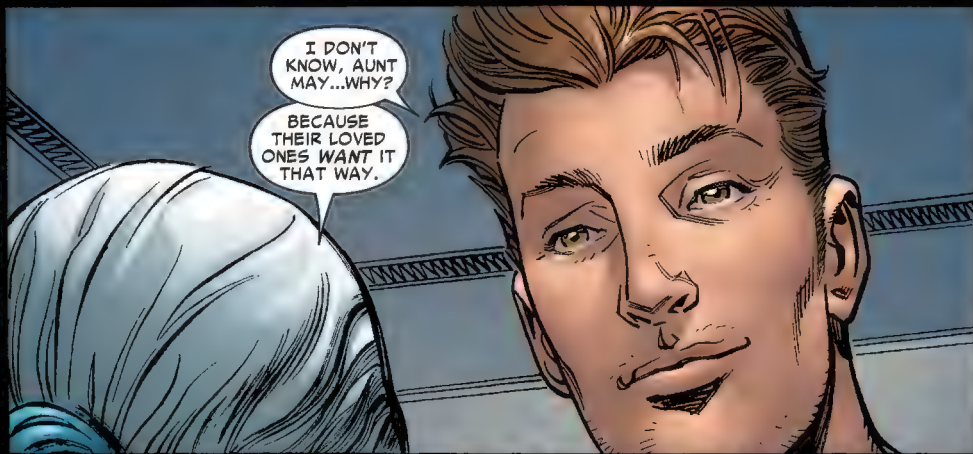
A CHILD'S PROMISE THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH HOW THE WORLD WORKS.



EVERY DAY, PROSECUTORS AND JUDGES AND GOVERNORS AND SENATORS GO TO WORK, KNOWING THEIR LOVED ONES MAY BE JEOPARDIZED BY THEIR WORK.

BUT THEY DON'T WEAR MASKS TO WORK.

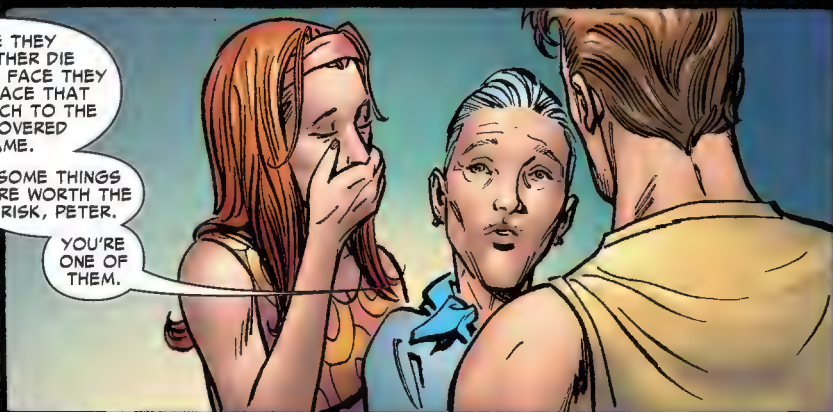
DO YOU KNOW WHY?



BECAUSE THEY WOULD RATHER DIE THAN SEE THE FACE THEY LOVE, THE FACE THAT GIVES SO MUCH TO THE WORLD, COVERED IN SHAME.

SOME THINGS ARE WORTH THE RISK, PETER.

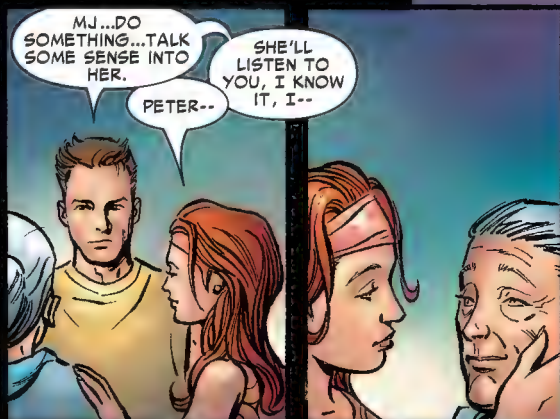
YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.



MJ...DO SOMETHING...TALK SOME SENSE INTO HER.

PETER--

SHE'LL LISTEN TO YOU, I KNOW IT, I--



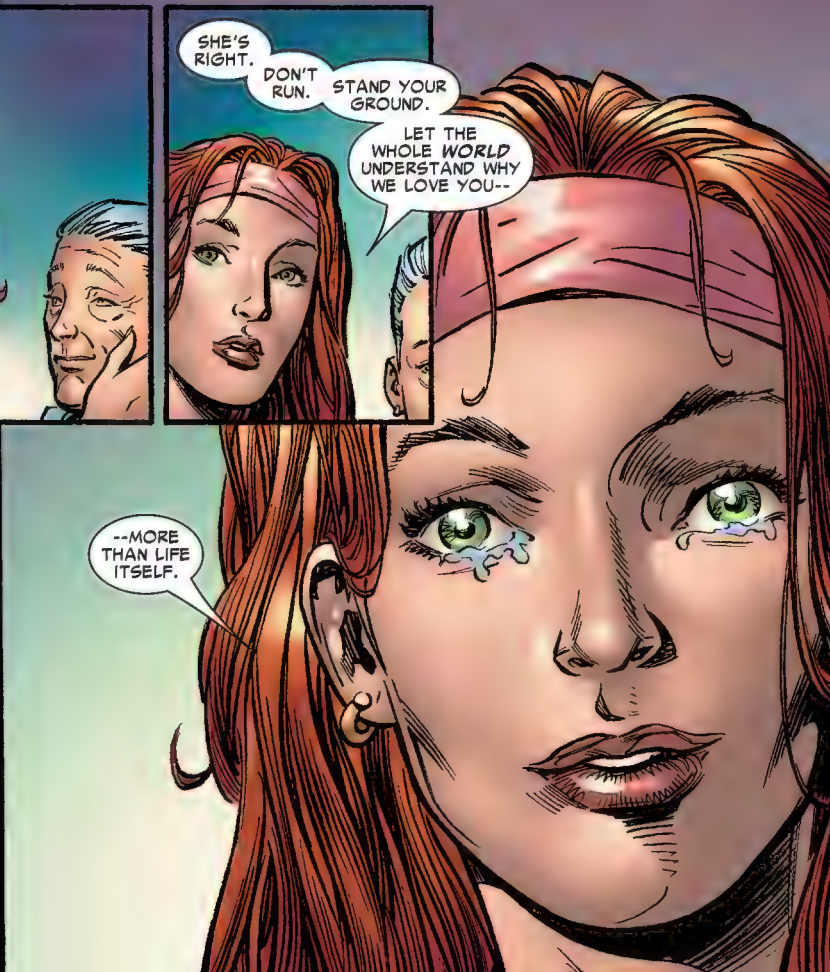
SHE'S RIGHT.

DON'T RUN.

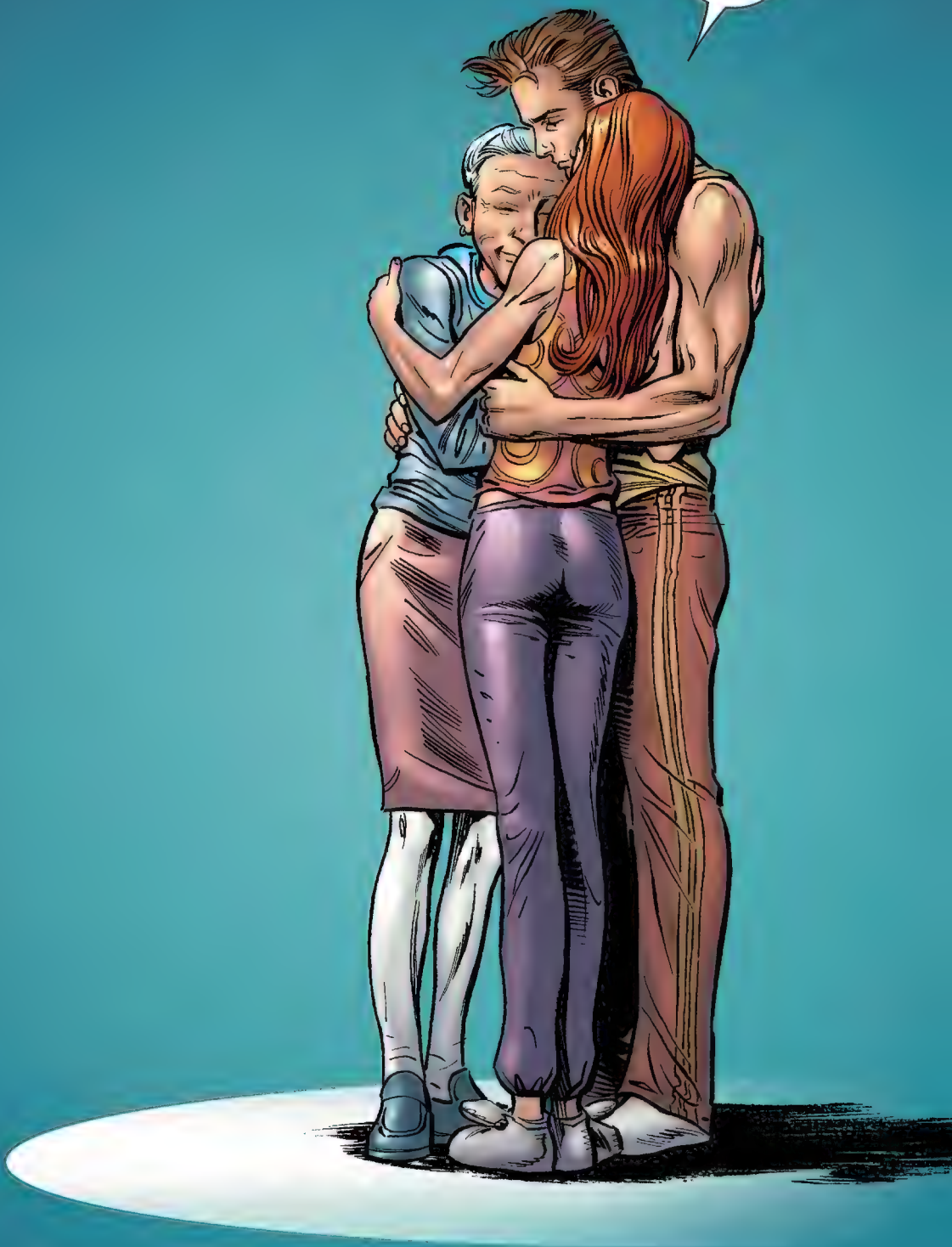
STAND YOUR GROUND.

LET THE WHOLE WORLD UNDERSTAND WHY WE LOVE YOU--

--MORE THAN LIFE ITSELF.



GO
GET 'EM,
TIGER.



FOUR DAYS LATER...

I used to wonder which would be harder...having no one to believe in you--

--or someone who believes in you so much that their love could burn you to the ground. Someone who knows you can give more than you think you can.

Not just love. Ferocity.

I think I finally figured that one out. But this one--

Just over one hour until the plane leaves.

I can't do it. I can't.

I've spent so many years hiding this...I just can't do it.



I'll swing by the bank, cash in my accounts...come up with a fake name...head north, to New England or Canada.

Once things calm down, I can come back, or send for MJ and May.



That's it, then. It had to be unanimous, and I vote not to--

PETER?



I KNOW YOU HAVE THAT NICE NEW SUIT TONY MADE FOR YOU, BUT I STITCHED THIS UP FOR YOU DURING THE NIGHT.

THIS WAY THEY'LL KNOW FOR SURE IT'S YOU WHEN THEY SEE YOU.

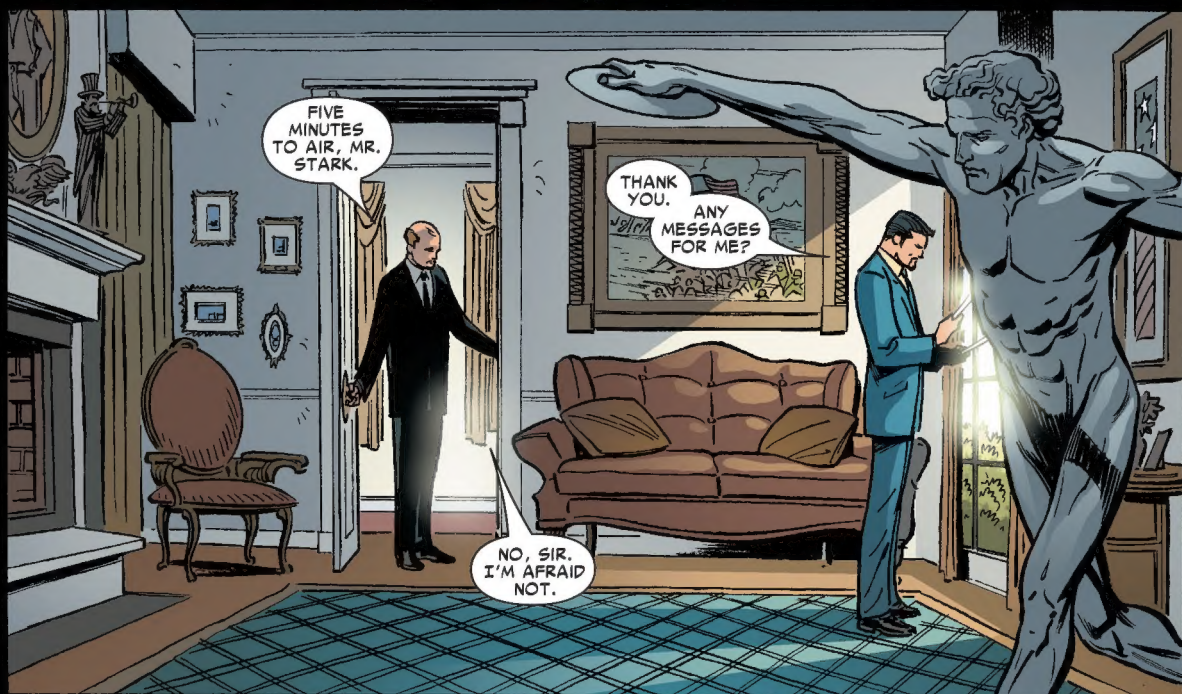


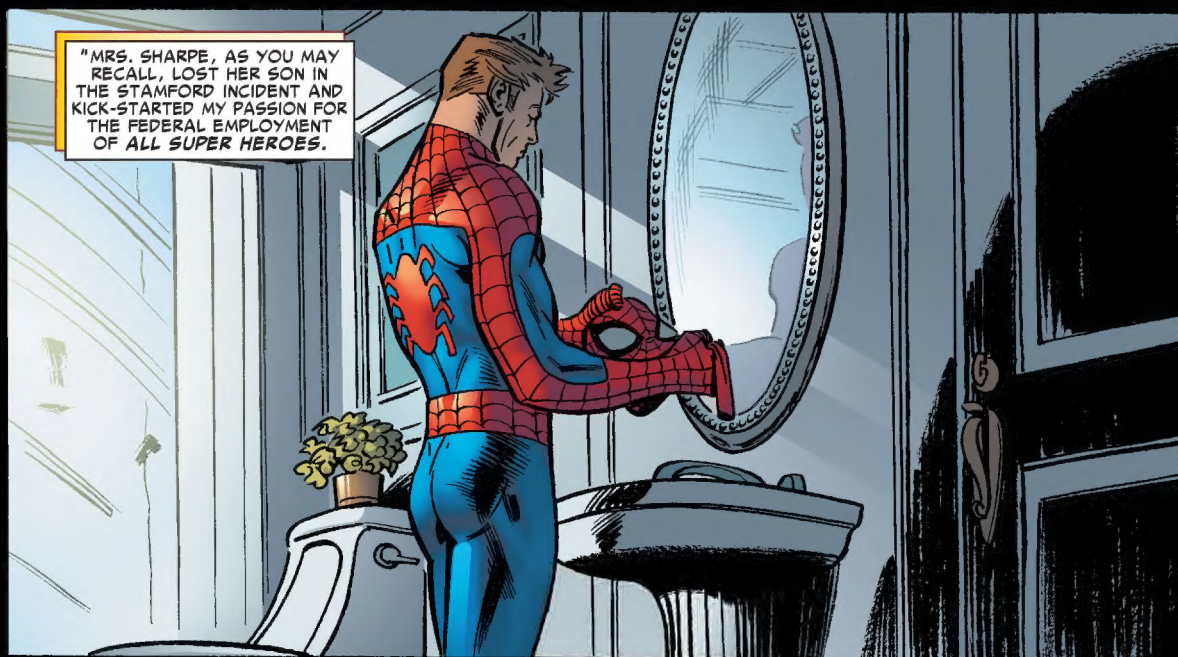
BEN, AND THEN YOU, ALWAYS SAID, "WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY."



AND RESPONSIBILITY MEANS YOU DON'T RUN AWAY WHEN SOMEONE ASKS, "WHO DID THAT?"









HI. GOOD MORNING.
THANK YOU FOR COMING.

I'M STANDING HERE TODAY BECAUSE--
--WELL, BECAUSE--

--I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE.

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